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Reserve

DDT for the Control of Body Lice and Crab Lice

The body louse attacks the body to obtain blood but it spends most of its time on the clothing. Female body lice lay their eggs along seams of the clothing, woolen garments being preferred. Some lice may crawl from a heavily infested person to his bedding or furniture. Other persons may become infested in this manner. It requires approximately 16 days for the body louse to complete its development from egg to adult. One female may lay from 200 to 300 eggs.

Body lice may be controlled by dusting DDT (10 parts DDT, technical, in 90 parts of talc or some other dusting powder) on the inside surfaces of underwear, especially the seams, and the inner seams of dresses, trousers, and shirts. The powder should be spread evenly over the garments with the hand. Nine teaspoonfuls ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces) of the powder is sufficient to treat the garments of one person. Treated clothing will continue to kill lice for approximately 30 days if not washed or dry cleaned. DDT will not kill eggs of the body louse and each change of clothing should be treated with the DDT powder until all of the lice are killed.

A hand-operated pump duster is useful in applying DDT dust mixture when treating groups of individuals. The dust is blown into the garments without undressing the infested persons. The nozzle of the duster should be inserted in each sleeve opening, around the neck, and the waistline, especially blowing the dust to the skin of the armpits and crotch.

The crab or pubic louse usually occurs about the pubic region but the hairs of the armpits, body hairs, and even the eyebrows, eyelashes, and mustaches may become infested. It requires approximately 16 to 18 days for the crab louse to complete its development from egg to adult. One female will lay about 26 eggs.

Crab lice may be controlled by applying the DDT powder to regions of the body where the hair is coarse. The powder should not be washed off for about 18 hours. A second application of the DDT powder should be made in about 7 to 10 days.

CAUTION: DDT is a poison. In powder form, however, it is not irritating or poisonous when applied to the skin.

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